



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
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California Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Francisco Bay Region

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

August 4, 2006

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS NOTICE OF FILING A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT For the Proposed Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) will consider an amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan) during public hearings on October 11 and December 13, 2006. Specifically, the Water Board will consider:

- **Establishing a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for MERCURY IN WALKER CREEK, and an implementation plan to achieve the TMDL**
- **Adopting new mercury water quality objectives for mercury in fish tissues to protect wildlife in the Walker Creek watershed**
- **Vacating the Basin Plan's existing freshwater mercury water quality objective applicable in the Walker Creek watershed**

Action on the proposed amendment will be taken in accordance with a regulatory program certified under Section 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code as exempt from the requirement to prepare an environmental impact report under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 2100 et seq.) and with other applicable laws and regulations.

There will be two public hearings on the proposed Basin Plan amendment:

DATES:	October 11, 2006 December 13, 2006
TIME:	9:00 a.m. (approximate)
LOCATION:	Elihu M. Harris State Building First Floor Auditorium 1515 Clay Street Oakland, CA 94612
STAFF CONTACT:	Jill Marshall San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400 Oakland, CA 94612 510.622.2388 (ph.) 510.622.2460 (fax) jmarshall@waterboards.ca.gov



MATERIALS:

The proposed Basin Plan amendment, supporting staff report, and other documentation will be available online on August 4, 2006 at www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/TMDL/walkmercurytml.htm . Paper copies will also be available from:
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Paper copies also can be reviewed at the reference desk in the following public library:

Pt. Reyes Station Library
11431 State Route 1,
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

The 45-day public comment period for the proposed amendment expires at 5:00 p.m. on **September 18, 2006**. All written comments on the proposed amendment are due by this date to the staff contact identified above. Additionally, all evidence, testimony, and exhibits to be offered at the September hearing must be submitted in writing by this date to the above staff contact. Non-evidentiary policy statements to be made at the September hearing need not be submitted in advance.

The Water Board will receive oral public testimony on the proposed amendment at the October hearing. At the conclusion of the October hearing, in response to written comments and testimony received, the Water Board may recommend that staff make changes to the proposed amendment to be presented for its consideration at the subsequent hearing.

The Water Board will not take action until the December hearing. Water Board staff will release any proposed changes to the proposed Basin Plan amendment and/or accompanying staff report prior to the December hearing. Oral public testimony at the December hearing will be limited to comments on changes to the Basin Plan amendment the Water Board or its staff may propose subsequent to the August 4 version. At the conclusion of the December hearing, the Water Board will consider adoption of the proposed Basin Plan amendment, including changes to the proposed amendment that are consistent with the general purpose of the proposed amendment and are a logical outgrowth of the evidence and testimony received.

The public hearings will be conducted in accordance with 23 Cal. Code of Regs. § 649.3. Time limits may be imposed on oral testimony at the public hearings; groups are encouraged to designate a spokesperson. All exhibits presented at the hearing, including charts, graphs, and other testimony must be left with the Water Board. They will become part of the administrative record.

A map and directions to the hearing are available online at www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/direction.htm . The location of the hearings is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Executive Assistant Mary Tryon, (510) 622 2399, mtryon@waterboards.ca.gov, at least five (5) working days before a meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Bruce H. Wolfe
Executive Officer